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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,658	09/09/2003	Linda J. Sprague	7784-000645	1990
27572	7590	01/23/2006	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			SHERMAN, STEPHEN G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2674	

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/658,658	Applicant(s) SPRAGUE, LINDA J.	
	Examiner Stephen G. Sherman	Art Unit 2674	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>✓ 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>✓ 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/9/03</u></p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Figure 1, crew work station 18. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In paragraph [0028], line 12; reference is made to controller 54. The examiner suggests changing this to read controller 58.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: Grammar error. The examiner suggests changing the claim to read: The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of pieces of information includes a graphic symbol. Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: Grammar error. The examiner suggests changing the claim to read: The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the data port further comprises a wireless data port. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claim 18 recites the limitation "the aircraft." There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Endress et al. (US 2003/0160706).

Regarding claim 1, Endress et al. discloses a method of using a programmable display to convey a plurality of pieces of information (Paragraph [0030]), the method comprising:

locating the display on a mobile platform (Figure 3 and paragraph [0027]); and
programming the display to display at least one of plurality of different pieces of information (Figure 1 and paragraphs [0027]-[0029]),

whereby the display replaces a non-alterable, fixed message sign on the mobile platform (Paragraph [0004]).

Regarding claim 2, Endress et al. discloses the method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of pieces of information includes a plurality of differing sign images (Paragraph [0027]).

Regarding claim 3, Endress et al. discloses the method according to claim 2, sign images includes at least one or more of:

wherein the plurality of an exit sign image, a lavatory sign image, a lavatory occupied sign image, a lavatory not occupied sign image, a no smoking sign image, a return to seat sign image, and a fasten seat belt sign image (Paragraph [0027]).

Although Endress et al. only specifically mention of displaying a no smoking sign and a fasten seatbelt sign, the examiner interprets that since the display is for an airplane that the various different informative information would be a return to seat sign, exit sign image or a lavatory sign.).

Regarding claim 4, Endress et al. disclose the method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of pieces of information to includes a graphic symbol (Figure 4C).

Regarding claim 5, Endress et al. disclose the method according to claim 1, further comprising electromagnetically coupling a controller to the display (Figure 2 and paragraph [0034]. Figure 2 shows the controller 110 coupled to the display 300 through a wire RS485, however, since it is stated in paragraph [0034] that the RS485 cable could also be any known wireless technology, the examiner interprets that this would be

electromagnetically coupling the controller to the display since it is known that some wireless communication uses electromagnetic signals to send information.).

Regarding claim 6, Endress et al. disclose the method according to claim 5, further comprising signaling the display to change which of the plurality of pieces of information the display displays (Paragraph [0030]. The examiner interprets that the flight attendants signal the display to change.).

Regarding claim 7, Endress et al. disclose the method according to claim 5, further comprising modifying the plurality of pieces of information (Paragraph [0030]).

Regarding claim 8, Endress et al. disclose an apparatus comprising:

- a display supported on an area of a mobile platform (Figure 3 and paragraph [0027]);
- a memory in communication with the display to store a plurality of differing pieces of information (Figure 2, items 7 and Paragraph [0035]); and
- a circuit coupled to the memory to select one of the pieces of information to appear on the display, the circuit being operable to change the information displayed on the display in accordance with a newly selected piece of said stored information (Figure 2, item 110 and Paragraph [0035]), and

wherein the apparatus replaces a non-alterable sign on the mobile platform (Paragraph [0004]).

Regarding claim 9, this claim is rejected under the same rationale as claim 2.

Regarding claim 10, this claim is rejected under the same rationale as claim 3.

Regarding claim 11, this claim is rejected under the same rationale as claim 4.

Regarding claim 12, Endress et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a data port (Figure 2, item 900 and paragraph [0035]) electromagnetically coupled to one or more of the circuit and the memory (Figure 2 shows the interface 900 coupled to the control unit 110, where the examiner interprets that it would be inherent that the interface 9 and the controller 110 could be electromagnetically coupled.).

Regarding claim 13, Endress et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the data pod operates to accept a signal (Figure 2, items 8a and 8B and paragraph [0035]), the signal operating to change which of the plurality of pieces of information the display is to display (Paragraphs [0035]-[0036]).

Regarding claim 14, Endress et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the data port operates to accept a signal, the signal operating to modify the plurality of pieces of information (Paragraph [0035]).

Regarding claim 15, Endress et al. discloses the apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the data port further comprises a wireless data port (Figure 2 and paragraph [0035]. The examiner interprets that it would be inherent that the suitable interface could be a wireless device.).

Regarding claim 16, Endress et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the data port further comprises a hard wired device (Figure 2 and paragraph [0035]. The examiner interprets that it would be inherent that the suitable interface could be a hardwired device.).

Regarding claim 17, Endress et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the display further comprises an organic electroluminescent device (Paragraph [0038]).

Regarding claim 18, Endress et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the area of the aircraft further comprises an interior area of the aircraft (Paragraph [0024]).

Regarding claim 19, Endress et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the display is dedicated for a particular message in any language (The examiner interprets that it would be inherent that the display would be dedicated for a

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particular message in any language depending on the language of the passengers on the aircraft.).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen G. Sherman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SS

10 January 2006


PATRICK N. EDOUARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER